

REMARKS

Applicant has removed “forming” from claims 3 and 4, to address the objection in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Allowance of claims 15-18 is noted with thanks.

Responsive to paragraph 10 of the Office Action claims 3,4,5,6,9,11 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form to secure allowance of claims 3-7,9-11, 13 and 14.

Claim 1 is rejected over the admitted prior art (APA) shown in Figure 1.

Applicant has removed the phrase “upon assembly” and rewritten it for greater clarity at the end of claim 1. The APA requires insertion of the seal K with stud 46 backed out to permit the insertion. After insertion of the seal K the stud 46 is turned to drive down compression ring 34 onto the seal 10 to provide the longitudinal compressive force.

Claim 1 states that insertion alone creates the longitudinal compressive force. The APA cannot do this and neither can Heinze ‘621. Heinze requires the insertion of a C-ring 14 to push the seal into longitudinal compression on its enlarged segment 12a (Column 2 Lines 61-66). Note that the cylindrically shaped end 12d never contacts wall 2j in that the C-ring 14 abuts surfaces 2j and 2m to push with a longitudinal force component against sloping surface 12e of the seal 12. Thus, as to claim 12 that now reads that the seal is retained by the tubular on both ends by a projection depression relation with the tubular, is not anticipated by Heinze. Heinze does this on one end only where seal end 12b is the projection contacting the tubular depression 2a. At the other end of seal 12 end 12d makes no contact with recess 2d on the tubular. Rather, Heinze requires another element, C-ring 14 to be inserted to make such contact in the depression 2d of the tubular 2. All claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance.


Respectfully submitted,



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